

OUR SOCIAL CHAT

All letters intended for this department should be addressed to "Aunt Jennie," care of The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.

Aunt Jennie's Letter.

Mary talks about the girls and boarding school, but no one has said a word about the boys and boarding school. I guess it is because boys are independent and energetic and lack the temerity that so often affects their sisters. I want to tell you boys that everything in this life depends on you individually. You can be a manly man or you can be a vagabond, just as you prefer. You are a free agent and the result of your choice will be known of men for you can not fool all men even if you have fooled yourself.

Don't go to school believing that you know as much as those who will endeavor to teach you. If you know that much, you had best not go at all but apply for a professor's place and show your diploma from the world's school, and see how your knowledge sells.

Make up your mind before you enter school that you will abide by the rules of the institution knowing that they were formulated for your well-being and always to your interest as a student. The love of liberty is innate in the youth of America, but is too much liberty conducive to perfect scholarship? Your liberty will come with your diploma and then you will be old enough, and I trust wise enough, to appreciate its advantages and disadvantages. No boy can study and play at the same time; either one or the other must go. Of course, you need exercise and must have it, but let it be of the right kind and remember to play in such a way that when it is over you can forget it and think of your lessons. I hope to hear from some of our boys and girls who have entered college this fall. We should be delighted to have you join our Club. We have several students on the roll already, but the more the merrier, you know.

AUNT JENNIE.

Girls and Boarding Schools.

Dear Aunt Jennie:—Shall we send our girl to boarding school? The answer depends on several considerations—the object of her education, the value of the school in helping to accomplish this object, and her associations. The aim of the average girl's education is to fit her for domestic social life. Contentment and usefulness are possible without any special talent, but the broadest and fullest lives are those for women with many accomplishments.

We know that the advantages are limited in the country and small towns and the girls must look elsewhere. If she associates with only one group of people, her growth is naturally the same as theirs. Hers is one of those rare natures if she aspires to climb higher than they have climbed. Their opinions and prejudices are hers as well. With new friends and new surroundings

will come a flood of new thoughts and aspirations. She will see life from a different view point and this will prove a powerful mental stimulant and add zest to the acquisition of knowledge.

Many a girl to-day is enjoying intellectual pleasures made possible to her only by wider knowledge and awakened interest gained at boarding school, and many others have returned home to raise the standard of life by introducing new interests. Culture is in the air at boarding school and even the dullest girl will imbibe some of it.

There are persons who think it best to send a girl away at twelve years of age. Now, I do not think it well to send her before her fifteenth birthday and it is often not wise to have her go before she is sixteen.

If she has been mother's pet and never yet learned to arrange her own toilet without other help, the boarding school will teach her many things, but one of the most valuable is that of self reliance. If she has acquired untidy habits of person or belongings, and these have been excused at home, they will not be excused at school, but cause comment and censure; then if she has self respect or pride, this will arouse it. In constant association with others she will see illustrated every day the despoiling effects of vanity, selfishness, sarcasm, faultfinding, carelessness and all the thousand petty flaws so common to girlhood. She will see faults in others, of course, but when she must put up with annoying faults in others, we can be reasonably sure that she will not fall into those faults herself. There are many schools where girl nature is thoroughly understood, and such a one will often strike the key note of the life of your girl and lead her into the path for which nature has fitted her.

MRS. MARY L.

Religious Selections.

Dear Aunt Jennie:—I wish to "pass on" for the benefit of Progressive Farmer readers a few nuggets of gold from my religious reading.

"Many people have an indefinite idea of what is meant by Spiritual Life. This is a good definition: A life in which God and thoughts of duty are supreme. When Nicodemus came to Christ he was pervaded with the idea that right doing consisted in outward things. Christ struck at the heart of his error by teaching the necessity of the birth from above. Such birth gives Spiritual Life, and Spiritual Life leads to the doing of right things because they belong to such life. Something like this is the meaning of Spiritual Life, as we use the term. It means conscious nearness to God. It means obedience to the law of God, because the life of the man is in harmony with the life of God. It means keeping the Sabbath with joy, because the heart rejoices to do God's will and come into communion with him through Sabbath-keeping. It means joyous service, not a burdensome

cross. See Psa. 119: 97-115, Isa. 58: 13, 14, 1 Pet. 1: 11-4. John 14: 15, 23. 1 John 5: 2, 3. 'Some of the ancient cities had only one gate. The surrounding wall was high, and none could enter except through the one massive door or gate. Heaven is thus protected. There is but one doorway or entrance.' Christ says, 'I am the door.' John 10: 9, 14: 6.

"It is because Christ, as a living person, is the contemporary of every age, that his gospel is as modern as each new day and every new civilization. Because he lives he has never been outlived. Because he fills the world with His spirit the world can never escape his mastership. Because he is a potent presence, and not a mere surviving memory, our emancipation, our progress, our hope of redemption, all lie in finding and possessing His grace.

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"Christianity, if it means anything, means sixteen ounces to the pound, three feet to the yard, a just weight and just measure. It means honesty in all dealings, purity in all conversation, a charity as broad as the race, unflinching integrity, sympathy, humanity to man, loyalty to God." Stonewall Jackson's idea of Christianity was that it "makes man better in any lawful calling; it equally makes the general a better commander, and the shoemaker a better mechanic." In the case of the cobbler, or the tailor, for instance, religion will produce more care in promising work, more punctuality, and more fidelity in executing it, from conscientious motives; and these homely examples were fair illustrations of its value in more exalted functions. So prayer aids any man, in any lawful business, not only by bringing down the Divine blessing, which is its direct and prime object, but by harmonizing his own mind and heart. In the commander of an army at the critical hour, it calmed his perplexities, moderated his anxieties, steadied the scales of judgment, and thus preserved him from exaggerated and rash conclusions. Again he urged that every act of man's life should be a religious act. Also enforced his favorite dogma, that the Bible furnished men with rules for everything. If they would search he said they would find a precept, an example, or a general principle, applicable to every possible emergency of duty, no matter what was a man's calling." St. Paul says, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Col. 3: 23, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor 10: 33. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Col. 3: 17.

"Words are for the ears of men. thoughts are for God's ears. The voice of one's thoughts is loud enough to be heard in heaven." King David said to his son Solomon, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God, the God of thy father,

and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts; if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever." 1 Chron. 28: 9.

* * *

"To examine its evidence is not to try Christianity; to compare and estimate its teachers is not to try Christianity; to attend its rites and services with more than Mohammedan punctuality, is not to try or know Christianity. But for one day to have lived in the pure atmosphere of faith and love to God, of tenderness to man; to have beheld earth annihilated and heaven opened to the prophetic gaze of hope; to have seen even more revealed behind the complicated troubles of this strange, mysterious life, the unchanging smile of an eternal Friend, and everything that is difficult to reason solved by that reposing trust which is higher and better than reason—to have known and felt this, I will not say for a life, but for a single blessed hour, that, indeed, is to have made experiment of Christianity."

"Truth" was one of the words often on the lips of Jesus. The gospel is a message to the intellect, as well as to the heart. It appeals to the reason as well as to the affections or the conscience. It throws light upon the problems of existence.

"The heart of Jesus Christ was close to the great heart of humanity. He felt every throb and impulse that beats in the human heart. The Son of Man was tempted in all points like as we are. The forty days in the wilderness was a transcript of human life. It was temptation gathered up, focussed and poured forth with all the arts of hell. But he came through the furnace without the smell of fire upon his garments."

M. E. F.

My name on a lamp-chimney says, "Pay double for me; I give double light and don't break."

MACBETH.

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MACBETH, Pittsburgh.

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